

Dodd and the Wheat Deal

Senator Pushing for Investigation

By HOLMES ALEXANDER

Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.), the silvering bulldog who guards America's Cold War interests, went growling to his kennel and did not challenge the nuclear test ban treaty—but is now ready to roar out some full-throated warnings against the President's wheat deal with Russia.

On October 8 Dodd, with five co-sponsors, introduced a Senate resolution that called for a select committee to "study all implications" of what was then only a well-founded rumor

The white-haired senator, who has done prodigious and continuing research into this field, feels that the Soviet Union is in a three-way domestic crisis involving its agriculture, its industry and its intellectual community. He sees the situation as offering the United States a literal god-send—a nonviolent strategic opportunity to force the U.S.S.R. into worldwide retreat, liberalize the Khrushchev government at home and possibly liberate the Soviet satellites.

Within the coming weeks, I expect that Dodd will propose a bold policy of action which is in dramatic contrast to the Administration's aid-and-appeasement approach. Dodd will say that the United States should strive for an overwhelming supremacy of economic power and should use it to bring about the disintegration of the Soviet economy.

In order to attain the desired results, the United States should deny the Soviet bloc all critical supplies outside its sphere of influence. This would require an ironclad export embargo by the United States and the enforcement of a uniform re-export embargo by countries which receive any American aid or expect any tariff concessions from us. There should be no exemptions for so-called "non-strategic" goods.

The senator's office is heaped with material from Russian and European sources which describe these conditions in the Soviet Union:

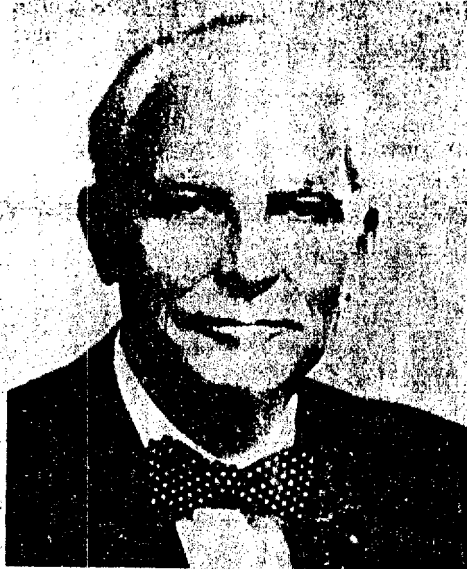
(1) An agricultural failure, the most calamitous since the revolution, not wholly caused by "weather" and therefore not temporary. Khrushchev's virgin land project in the Kazakhstan Republic was a blunder because it plowed land that will not now retain moisture and has produced a dust bowl that will never grow grain. In addition, agricultural machinery is in a shambles with 30 per cent of the tractors inoperative, and the peasants in surly, sit-down revolt.

(2) An industrial stagnation from which Russia cannot recover without the West. Russia is now using 800,000

metal-cutting machines for repair work only. One-fourth of all construction machinery, two-fifths of all automobiles, says a report in Dodd's office, "are systematically idle because of substandard quality of parts and assemblies." Nearly one-third of all metal-cutting machinery is in repair shops. "One million persons are engaged in inspection alone," a member of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Science complained two years ago. "Despite its size, this army of inspectors does not assure necessary production quality. Equipment is still bad." The instrument manufacturing industry is on a "starvation diet," this same authority noted.

(3) Having allowed much intellectual freedom among writers and artists, and having given consumers some good breaks, Khrushchev can't renege except by returning to "Stalinism"—unless the West balls him out with "peace" and prosperity.

Dodd feels that the knuckles of opportunity are hovering at our door. If we miss this chance, it may never



Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) feels the Administration is on the verge of allowing a vast trade expansion at a time when we should be applying the squeeze.

that this country would sell some \$250 million worth of surplus wheat to the Soviet bloc. The next day the President used his press conference to confirm the rumor and to reveal an intricate by-pass which makes congressional permission unnecessary.

Dodd intends, however, to push for a still wider investigation, possibly by a joint House-Senate committee, going into the larger aspects of East-West trade. He fears that the Administration is on the verge of allowing a vast trade expansion at a time when we should be applying the squeeze.